GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:197
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
OPENING OF ROAD ALONG PAK BORDER
Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is holding talks with Pakistan to open roads along the Pakistan border particularly, Munnavau-Khokhrapar road in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for opening of these roads and to check infiltration and smuggling from across the border has been received from Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details; thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check terrorism, infiltration and smuggling, likely to rise as a result of opening of this road;

(f) whether Pakistan is extending full support in completing the fencing work;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the time by which Indian citizenship is likely to be granted to the Hindu refugees coming over to India from Pakistan after the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1972; and

(i) the number of such refugees?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (i): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.197 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2004.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Technical discussions were held in Islamabad in March 2004.

(c)&(d): The proposal has been made by India.

(e): Adequate security measures like X-ray machines, scanners, metal detectors, trained staff, etc. would be put in place at the border check post for checking smuggling/infiltration which may arise as a result of opening road links with Pakistan.

(f)&(g): Fencing along the India-Pakistan border is being erected inside Indian territory. This is an initiative undertaken by the Government of India and the entire project is being funded by the Central Government. Pakistan authorities have not objected to the erection of fencing by India on the International Border except for the area falling in Jammu Sector. Before the cease-fire, i.e., November 2003, Pakistan troops used to fire regularly to stop/disrupt the fencing work in Jammu area. However, since the cease-fire has come into effect, construction of fencing has progressed without any obstruction from Pakistan.

(h) & (i): A large number of minority Hindu community nationals had migrated from Pakistan to the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat consequent to the wars between India and Pakistan in the years 1965 & 1971 respectively. In order to expedite grant of citizenship to these persons, these State Government have been delegated the requisite powers, for a period of one year, under The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2004. The Government of India has transferred 916 such applications to the Government of Rajasthan and 440 applications to the Government of Gujarat.